REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 13-16 are pending in the application, with Claim 13 being the only independent claim. Claim 13 has been amended herein. Applicants submit that no new matter has been added.

In the Office Action, Claims 13, 15 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,114,020 (Misuda et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,203,899 (Hirose et al.). Claim 14 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Misuda et al., in view of Hirose et al., and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,175,133 (Smith et al.). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicants' invention as recited in Claim 13 is directed to a process for producing a recording medium for ink-jet recording having an ink-receiving layer including a particulate material on a base material. The process includes the steps of grinding aluminum oxide particles of the γ-crystal structure and removing a coarse particle component by a separation treatment such that the average particle diameter of the aluminum oxide particles of the γ-crystal structure is at least 0.21 μm and at most 1.0 μm, and at least 90% of all particles of the aluminum oxide particles of the γ-crystal structure have a particle diameter of at most 1.0 μm, and applying onto the base material the aluminum oxide particles of the γ-crystal structure subjected to the treatment of removing the coarse particle component with a binder. At least 90% by weight of the particulate

material is the aluminum oxide particles of the γ-crystal structure, and the surface of the ink-receiving layer constitutes an outer surface of the recording medium.

Applicants submit that the cited art fails to teach or suggest many features of Applicants' claimed invention.

Misuda et al. is directed to a recording medium having a base material and a porous surface layer containing particles of a thermoplastic resin. Misuda et al. discloses that underlying the porous surface layer may be an ink-receiving layer. The ink-receiving layer may include an alumina hydrate having a pseudoboehmite structure. Applicants note that the alumina hydrate disclosed in Misuda et al. is distinguishable from the aluminum oxide of the present invention in that the aluminum oxide is an anhydrous compound. In addition, Misuda et al., is not understood to teach or suggest, at least, that the surface of the ink-receiving layer constitutes an outer surface of the recording medium, as recited in Claim 13.

Applicants also disagree with assertion in the Office Action that the alumina hydrate used in Misuda et al. contains a γ-crystal structure. Misuda et al. discloses that Alumina Sol 520, a product of Nissan Chemical Industries, Ltd., is a suitable alumina sol. The Office Action references Table 4 of Hirose et al. as evidence that the Alumina Sol 520 has a γ-crystal structure. Applicant's submit, however, that the indication in Table 4 of Hirose et al. is incorrect. The Nissan Chemical Industries' Alumina Sol product literature submitted with the November 14, 2005 Response indicates that the Alumina Sol 520 has a boehmite structure rather than a γ-crystal structure. Thus, Applicants submit that Misuda et al. does not teach or suggest the use aluminum oxide particles of the γ-crystal structure, as recited in Claim 13.

Additionally, Applicants note that the Office Action indicates that Misuda et al. uses a deflocculation process to synthesize the alumina particles, and that the particle size of the alumina is within the claimed range. Applicants note, however, that the defloculation process of Misuda et al. is used to prevent aggregation when dispersing the alumina hydrate in water and that the deflocculation process does not control for the particle size of the course particles. Applicants submit, therefore, that the deflocculation of Misuda et al. is not equivalent to grinding aluminum oxide particles of the γ-crystal structure and removing a coarse particle component by a separation treatment such that the average particle diameter of the aluminum oxide particles of the γ-crystal structure is at least 0.21 μm and at most 1.0 μm, as recited in Claim 13.

Smith et al. was cited for disclosing that centrifugation and filtration are dewatering processes and is not understood to remedy the above-noted deficiencies of Misuda et al.

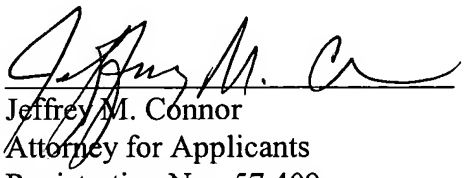
In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that the cited references, whether taken alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest many features of Applicants' claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the §§ 102 and 103 rejections.

Applicants submit that the present invention is patentably defined by independent Claim 13. Dependent Claims 14-16 are also patentable, in their own right, for defining features of the present invention in addition to those recited in Claim 13. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is requested.

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowability are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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